



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Throughout our state's history, flooding has threatened Texans' safety, property, and economy at extraordinary levels. From the great Galveston storm of 1900, which took thousands of lives, to modern storms like Hurricane Rita in 2005, Hurricane Ike in 2008, and 2017's Hurricane Harvey, it is imperative that Texans unite to prepare for potentially sudden and violent acts of Mother Nature. We also experience the dangers and devastating cost of flash flooding and river flooding year round, such as the destructive Memorial Day floods of 2015. Flash flooding is the number one cause of weather-related damage, and sadly, Texas often leads the nation in flood-related deaths, many of which are preventable.

Thankfully, the Lone Star State is home to the most resilient, caring, and hardworking people in the world. Together, we have weathered these hardships with exceptional courage and with the can-do Texas spirit that has helped us lift each other up in times of turmoil. However, there is always more that can be done to improve how we prepare for, respond to, and keep our families safe from flooding.

While dangerous floods are possible throughout the year, they often have a greater frequency during spring and summer thunderstorms and hurricane season. Intense rainfall or slow-moving storms that track over the same areas can cause a rapid rise of water, and flash floods can develop within minutes. All Texans should take simple steps toward greater flood awareness, such as knowing whether you live in a floodplain and where you can find reliable and accurate forecasts or hazardous weather updates in case of an emergency. We must all take greater personal responsibility of our choices when faced with hazardous weather conditions and always make the decision that will ensure our safety. The National Weather Service's widely recognized "Turn Around, Don't Drown" campaign has helped save lives by educating the public about the dangers of driving or walking through flood waters. Remember, it only takes half a foot of fast-moving water to knock an adult off their feet, and a mere two feet of rushing water to carry away large vehicles like buses.

In Texas, organizations and communities conduct a flood awareness campaign during a week in May. This campaign is dedicated to ensuring Texans better understand—and are better prepared for—flooding by providing citizens with educational materials, as well as encouraging Texans to wear blue, as organizations like the Texas Floodplain Management Association do, to enhance the visibility of this campaign.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to educate themselves and their families for flood safety and flood awareness. By being aware of and prepared for flooding, we can create a safer future for the Lone Star State.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 23-27, 2022, to be

Flood Awareness Week



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
14th day of April, 2022.


Governor of Texas